

TO: House Committee On Education
RE: Support of HB 3365 Relating to climate change instruction in public schools
DATE: 03/07/25

Dear Chair Neron, Vice Chair Dobson, Vice Chair McIntire, and members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Maya Ryley, and I live in Eugene when I'm not in Salem attending Willamette University where I'm working towards a degree in Sociology and English. As someone who has been through K-12 education and grew up with a parent who is a teacher, I believe that schools have the opportunity and the obligation to prepare students for the world ahead of them. This is why I support **HB 3365**.

While schools teach us fundamental skills such as reading, writing, and math, they also teach us how to be active members of society. This is accomplished through teaching critical thinking, problem solving, and exposing students to what our world looks like. However, this can't be adequately done unless students are given the opportunity to see the complete picture. **HB 3365** ensures that every student will have the ability to learn about sustainability and climate change through an interdisciplinary focus.

Through this new requirement, students will expand their knowledge by building a foundation of understanding about the scientific causes of climate change and possible ways to reduce its effects. From this foundation students will be able to learn about the current and future impacts of climate change from diverse perspectives, which will allow students to gain skills in addressing the psychological and mental health challenges that come with climate crises. Additionally, these learning opportunities not only lead to a well-rounded education but also practical experiences that allow students to build resilience in their communities in response to climate change and move us to a positive future.

Schools are a place of learning, growing, and community. They're where we become who we are through challenges, solving problems, and beginning to see the world around us through a larger lens. **HB 3365** ensures that schools continue to be the place where students learn and are prepared to be a part of the world around them. Without the knowledge, skills, and experiences surrounding climate change education, we're setting up our children as well as our future to fail.

I implore you to support **HB 3365** as a way to make sure students continue to have the experiences they need in school to be successful and to ensure our community has a positive future.

Thank you for your time and support,

-Maya Ryley